



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DOH expands booster authorization to 16 and 17-Year-Olds**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) is adopting expanded guidelines from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on COVID-19 booster vaccinations. Hawai'i residents ages 16 and 17 may receive a booster dose if it has been at least six months since the completion of the initial series of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine.

DOH reminds all eligible residents they can receive a booster dose if it has been at least two months since their Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or six months since completing their Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech series.

The recent emergence of the Omicron variant underscores the importance of vaccination and boosters. According to the CDC, strong immunity, such as that provided by a booster, will likely prevent severe illness. Everyone should continue to practice other mitigation measures, such as wearing a mask, avoiding large gatherings and staying home from work or school and getting tested for COVID-19 if they feel sick.

Vaccines are widely available across the state. Find a convenient location at <https://hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccine/>.

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